

MARCH 1962

# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

OF THE

# RED CROSS

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
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# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

SECOND YEAR — No. 12

MARCH 1962

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## FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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## SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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### SPANISH

¿Puede estar armado el personal de la protección civil ?

### GERMAN

Kann das Personal des zivilen Bevölkerungsschutzes bewaffnet sein ?

## THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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## THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL SERVICE

### ITS RELATION TO WORLD NEEDS AND PROBLEMS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ASIA AND AFRICA

*The René Sand Prize has been awarded for the last four years by the International Conference of Social Work. In 1961, the prize was awarded to Princess Amrit Kaur, formerly Minister of Health for India, who is now Chairman of the Indian Red Cross. In the July 1959 issue of the Revue internationale<sup>1</sup>, she published a long article on the Red Cross and its humanitarian tasks, and the important rôle which she plays on the international level is well known. This was recognized by her nomination, in 1950, to the presidency of the World Health Assembly. It should also be remembered that for sixteen years she was Gandhi's private secretary and fellow-worker.*

*The René Sand Prize was handed to her during the 10th International Conference of Social Work which was held in Rome in 1961. On this occasion, she made a speech and we are indebted to the International Conference of Social Work for permission to publish the essential passages.<sup>2</sup>*

*In her introduction, Princess Amrit Kaur recalled the fine personality of René Sand who, moved by a high ideal, took an active part*

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<sup>1</sup> English Supplement, August 1959.

<sup>2</sup> This speech appeared in French in *Le Service social dans un monde qui se transforme*, the report of the 10th International Conference of Social Work published in 1961, by the International Conference of Social Work—Regional Office for Europe and the Middle East, Paris.

*in the Red Cross in Belgium and whose action led to National Societies engaging in social work. "René Sand was a truly great man, a devoted servant of humanity", as Princess Amrit Kaur calls him, "and one whose entire life was an epic of love in action."*

*We are particularly pleased to reproduce the following text, which is of all the more interest since it was given by the Chairman of an important National Society and inspired by a man whom the Red Cross movement remembers with gratitude. (Editorial Note.)*

\* \* \*

Man has always been a gregarious animal. It is contrary to his nature to live alone and hence has emerged in every part of the world, however backward or advanced, the concept of society which, because of man's innate desire for companionship, has developed from family life to the wider field of community and nation. No society, however, primitive or small in numbers, can prosper unless its members are united and aware of their duties and responsibilities. In order, therefore, to evolve a mode of life which contributes to the prosperity of the community, certain laws of behaviour had to be formulated and I feel that it would be interesting for us to turn our minds for a little while towards the earliest concepts of a social order. Coming as I do from a country whose civilisation stretches back to many milleniums, I should like to place before you the Indian concept of life which, though it may not be followed in action in modern India, does still sway the minds of our masses.

In one of the greatest of our <sup>1</sup> Upanishads it is said "Everything here on earth belongs to Iswara (i.e. God). Enjoy what is given to you. Do not cast eyes of greed on any one's wealth. To work here on earth is the lot of man. There is no other way. Work and live out your life however long it may be. Work will not leave any sinful residue to cling to the soul, if it is done in the right way with detachment. Those who deny the spiritual being within our bodies commit suicide and the world will be utter darkness for such

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<sup>1</sup> The Isaavasyopanishad. Rendering into English by C. Rajagopalachari.

men. He who sees all others as if he were living in their bodies will not be perturbed by any dislikes or aversions. If he identifies himself completely with the beings around him he emancipates himself from all delusion and sorrow. When your spirit joins the ever-moving air and your body is reduced to ashes, remember your work alone remains behind. Act with this great knowledge. O Fire ! you know all the paths, lead us in the right path. O God ! guide us so that we may not sin."

Tagore writes of "The Spirit of India": "I love India, not because I cultivate the idolatry of geography, not because I have had the chance to be born in her soil, but because she has saved through tumultuous ages the living words that have issued from the illuminated consciousness of her great sons". Say the Hindu scriptures "Brahma (i.e. God) is Truth, Brahma is Wisdom, Brahma is Infinite. Peace is in Brahma, goodness is in Brahma and the unity of all beings." Again: "The householder shall have his life established in Brahma, shall pursue the deeper truth of all things and in all activities of life dedicate his works to the Eternal Being." Thus we have come to know that what India truly seeks is not a peace which is negation, or in some mechanical adjustment, but that which is in "Sivam" (i.e. God), in goodness, which is in the truth of perfect union; that India does not enjoin her children to cease from "Karma", (i.e. action), but to perform their "Karma" in the presence of the Eternal, with the pure knowledge of the spiritual meaning of existence; that this is the true prayer of Mother India.

"He who is one, who is above all colour distinctions, who dispenses the inherent needs of men of all colours, who comprehends all things from their beginning to the end, let Him unite us to one another with wisdom, which is the wisdom of goodness".

Indeed spiritual life has been the true genius of India. Those who have throughout the ages made the greatest appeal to the mass mind are not the builders of Empire or the victors in War, nor the rich, but the Rishis or Sages who have renounced the world with all its pomp and splendour and material wealth. These have taught that pride and power, wealth and worldly fame are as nothing compared with the spiritual values of life. History records no parallel to the renunciation of war by the great Emperor Asoka after he

had seen its tragedy. Conquest no longer held any lure for him because his heart was filled with compassion.

The lessons learnt from the Gita which is the core of the great Epic, the Mahabharata, are that our daily work is our vocation, the sphere in which we are called by God to serve Him to the best of our capacity. It is not the work we do that matters, but the spirit in which we do it. The lowest kind of work done for the love of God ranks higher with Him than the most brilliant done for personal gain. The former sets us free, the latter leads us to greater bondage. In other words freedom lies in true service.

Truth becomes Truth only through self-suffering. Let a man suffer for Truth and demonstrate to the world its power so that others may be convinced and accept it of their own free will. This gospel is of momentous consequence for it effects a change in outlook. To be killed, as Gandhi taught, becomes more heroic than to kill. It is nobler to stand up in spotless innocence against a misguided brother and be slain by him if necessary than march against and slay him. It is more profitable to convert him through love than to put an end to him through violence. It is better to evoke the divine spark in him by suffering oneself and thereby effect a permanent cure of the evil than crush him, win a temporary triumph and thus perpetuate evil. In brief, Truth is secure and duty unerring only when they sit on the throne of love for Eternal Truth postulates immeasurable Love.

Perhaps the finest description of an all-embracing code of life is embodied in the Sanskrit word "Dharma". Dharma is conceived as law, not of any country or society or nation but is rooted in the principle of the sustenance of every speck and atom in perfect harmony with the whole. Adharma—or breach of this law—denotes lack of discipline and selfishness and hence its resultant evils—discontent, unhealthy rivalry, fear and mistrust. We have to recognise that the universe is one family, a single unit and that its inhabitants, therefore, cannot help abiding by this law, whether they know it explicitly or not. Anything contrary to the law must lead to division and rupture within an organic whole.

The four Ashramas or divisions of life as prescribed in the Hindu scriptures were supposed to regulate life. They compel or should compel attention even in the modern world. First of all,



Brahmacharya, the life of probation of a student who learns at the feet of an erudite and morally perfect preceptor, receives training in the arts and sciences and religious lore, leading a life of strict celibacy. Second comes Grihastha—the life of the householder, the family man who puts into practice what he has imbibed from his Guru or preceptor. If he is truly disciplined the life of the householder will connote a harmony between his high ideals, his social duty and personal desire. Third Vanaprastha—the stage preparatory to the last lap of human life on earth. Just as the first prepares for the second, so the third trains for the last. Wordly contacts are gradually reduced, more time is given to religious worship and contemplation. It is the period of life when man tries to free himself from earthly cares. Finally Sannyasa—renunciation of the material values of life—which promises to man the knowledge of the way to the ultimate objective of life—Moksha, i.e. Salvation.

Later in the Sixth Century B.C. we had the light of Buddhism permeate not only India but the entire East. It is strange that the Buddha was in a sense less accepted in the land that gave him birth than he was in China, Japan, Burma, Ceylon, Thailand and Indonesia. This was largely because he was trying far more to reform Hinduism than to propound a new religion. In like vein he asked man to abstain from all kinds of evil, to accumulate all that is good and to purify the mind. He too held that Karma (action) regulates all life and the whole universe is bound by it so that Karma is like the axle of a moving chariot. Buddhism laid down that when an individual understands the true nature of things, he tries to renounce wordly life since he finds nothing substantial in it. The true Buddhist should mould his life according to the Noble Eight-Fold Path which consists of Right View, Right Resolve, Right Words, Right Actions, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindedness and Right Concentration. Great love and great compassion being the keynotes of Buddhism the true follower has to try to effect the good and happiness of all sentient beings of the world and to put an end to all their sufferings.

Contemporary with the Buddha were Lao Tzu and Confucius in China and Zarathustra in Iran. A century or so later the world was enriched by the great philosophers of Greece. Socrates laid down his life willingly rather than submit to giving up his search for

Truth. In his wonderful apologia he says "It may be that an individual is condemned unjustly : then the laws are either bad or badly administered. Still the individual may not take the matter into his own hands. The members of all bodies of men, and therefore of the State, must sacrifice their individual wills, more or less, to the whole to which they belong. They must obey the rules or laws of the whole or it will perish." And so grew up the concept of citizenship. Plato emphasised the good life and Aristotle looked upon the State as the highest association for the realisation of the good of man. European civics or the philosophy of citizenship has been based on Greek and Roman traditions and has evolved in the different countries of the Western world according to varying national temperaments, characteristics and needs. Later of course it was greatly enriched by the radiant light of Christianity. The ideal of the dignity of manual labour was admitted by the Monks in the Benedictine and other monasteries. The ideal of holy poverty was brought home to men, along with the dignity of labour, by the great religious Orders in the West. The Franciscans left the shelter of the Cloister and lived as "Little Brothers of the Poor" in the outer world. The ideal of brotherhood and mutual service was the strength and life of Mediaeval guilds. It bound workingmen together and made them take an honourable pride in the excellence of their craft. It eliminated under-selling and unfair competition. The ideal of justice and mercy towards the poor lay at the root of the earnest efforts made by the Church to condemn usury and to make all trade moral by insisting on a "just price" being reached between those who engage in Commerce.

We can look back with pride on the ground covered by these great adventures in the cause of brotherhood and human freedom and intellect. The practical promulgation of these ideals was a great step forward towards a new world. Clement of Alexandria said : "Wealth, when not properly governed, is a very fortress of evil. All we possess is given for use . . . He who gives to none becomes the poorer. Not he who keeps but he who gives is truly rich. He who climbs the steep ascent of salvation must carry in his hand the fair staff of charity." Hindu ideology also laid down that one should give up oneself for the sake of one's family, one's family

for the sake of one's village, one's village for the sake of one's country and the world for the sake of one's soul. This concept has probably been more social, humanitarian and spiritual than political in that spiritual salvation of the soul has always been given the highest preference. But the points of contact between Eastern and Western concepts are many because always the emphasis has been on the way of life which would conduce to the happiness and welfare of the greatest number. The Hindu scriptures are in fact soaked with the direction to help others. Islam laid immense stress on the brotherhood of man. Jesus Christ paid the supreme sacrifice that man might live. The teachings of the Sermon on the Mount are a classic to which no follower of any religion can take exception and at no time in the world's history more than today do we need to fear God and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

If we admit that all religions have laid upon mankind the duty of living so that we may contribute to the general well-being, it follows that the science of good citizenship extends from local interests to national, international and human relations. If we believe that humanity is one family, children of one God, then the more this belief sinks into our lives the more impossible it will become for us to neglect our fellow-men. Disputes, divisions, conflicts, rivalries, become hateful and on us falls the duty of becoming peace-makers.

This is known as the scientific age. Within the ken of some of us have come in the last two generations tremendous developments in science and technology ; the establishment of the germ theory of disease, the discovery of radioactivity, the knowledge of the age of rocks, the measurement of the distance of stars, the discovery of antibiotics, the splitting of the atom and all that flows from that marvellous achievement, travel into space, and we do not know what more astonishing discoveries await us from day to day. In this age of wonder we who work for humanity must see to it that all knowledge is used for building up not only material wealth and looking upon that alone as progress. Increase in total production or riches may never be an end regardless of the means. Growth in national character must ever be the most important objective.

At the same time, as Hooker said " Men must have enough to live on before they live well " and we must therefore realise that

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material circumstances do condition individual lives. Social servants cannot rest content until conditions which impede a healthy physical activity have been removed not only from individuals but from classes. But dead equality there can never and should never be. Manifold diversity is a part of the fullness of social life provided man realises that the fruits of such diversity are for the use of others. Each one of us is a trustee of what has been given to him, given to provide opportunity of service, not for selfish accumulation. And this concept of stewardship is the best watchword for the social worker. Reverential love for humanity will employ voluntary methods always. The individual is sacred ; the whole material world is insignificant compared with the individual life. Society is sacred ; the Fatherhood of God is the basis of all life. There is no fraternity without a common father and in a family reverential love is the bond of union. Mezzini said many wise things and he was right in propounding that " Man must not be taught ' to each according to his wants ' , nor yet ' to each according to his passions ' , but ' to each according to his love ' ". The geographical barriers of mountains and oceans that once divided man from having contacts with his fellowmen in other parts of the world have vanished. The world is a very small place today and all these happenings are throwing out a tremendous challenge to every one of us, for life has become far more complex than ever before and more and more difficult problems face us. Change has always been the one unchanging law of life and since we live in very dynamic times, to stand still must spell disaster whether for the individual, the community, the race or the nation. All this must make us pause and think as to what contribution we can make for only by using new means to meet new ends can we move with the times. I myself have no doubt that there is today more than ever need for service to humanity, need to enlarge the scope of this service, need to broaden our outlook so as to take in the ever-widening horizon of world needs.

The history of the world would be very dull if the lives of the Founders of the great religions of the world, of the Apostles and Martyrs who gave their lives so that what they preached might live, of the social reformers who sought to combat evil in whatsoever

shape and in whatsoever clime they found it, had not illumined its pages in letters of gold. The world would indeed be the poorer if men and women like Galileo, Leonardo da Vinci, Dante, Rousseau, Mazzini, Wilberforce, Livingstone, Francis of Assisi, Josephine Butler, Florence Nightingale, Abraham Lincoln, Tolstoi, René Sand and hosts of other great ones of the earth too numerous to mention, had never lived. The cry against impurity, slavery, ignorance, was always raised by inspired men and women, until recognition was won simply because they were willing to serve and sacrifice for a cause. Legislation has registered changes in outlook but legislation cannot go in advance of public opinion. And it is here that the social worker can strive to raise and deepen public opinion or rouse the public conscience by voluntary methods until the time is ripe for law. And the public conscience has to be roused in every sphere. There would be no disputes between Capital and Labour, between forms of Government, if all worked with devotion for the common good, if we loved our neighbours as ourselves. The concept of citizenship, of patriotism, would take on a new look and this unselfishness would naturally spread to all forms of organisations which go to make up national and international life. "Nothing is fruitful but sacrifice" said Lamennais and therefore our own unselfish work, however small or limited our personal area may be, will spread little by little the glow of warmth and light to wider and wider circles. And in our own day have we not all received inspiration from Gandhi, from Abbé Pierre, from Helen Keller and from Albert Schweitzer, ideal servants of humanity? All these have proved, if proof were needed, that the urge to serve fellow human beings is and must remain the keynote of the good life and that through such service alone can man rise to his full stature.

We live in a world still overcast with the shadow of conflict. Two devastating world wars have or should have taught mankind that war is no solution to any dispute, that in fact it creates more and greater problems. And yet every nation has still to resort to arms to defend peace, something that seems to be a veritable contradiction in terms. If there is no actual armed conflict today it is only because everyone knows that nuclear war would spell the destruction of the world. In other words war is held at bay only because of fear while suspicion and mistrust amounting to hatred

fill men's minds. Can an organisation like this help to lessen tensions in any way ? I believe it can. As social workers in a world full of fear it is our privilege through disinterested service to try to help in the creation of a new relationship between all peoples.

We are today aware that every person may reasonably expect a measure of freedom from disease, ignorance and poverty. We are conscious too of the newly won freedom from foreign domination or political independence that has come and is coming, perhaps quicker than any one of us may have imagined even a decade ago, to the peoples of Asia and Africa. What can we do for them ? Their needs cry out and must be met if peace is to obtain, for war finds a place only if there is no contentment, if hunger, disease and poverty stalk the land. President Eisenhower was therefore right when he said recently that those who have must share their gifts with those who have not and all are right when they demand that the enormous expenditure on armaments shall cease so that these huge sums of money may be diverted to lessen the world's sorrow and suffering.

You of the Western Hemisphere may find it hard to believe that poverty, disease and ignorance exist to an unbelievable extent in these great continents. India is probably far more advanced in the matter of education, trained personnel and social amenities than many of the other countries of Asia and Africa. And yet the problems that we face would stagger the stoutest heart. Millions of our children are without schools. Not even 25 % of our people are literate. Millions do not get enough to eat. If they are not actually hungry, the intake of calories is well below the minimum required to build up healthy bodies. The per capita income is only Rs. 294 or \$60 per annum. It has doubtless gone up during the first twelve years of our political independence but it has not kept pace *pari passu* with the increased cost of living. Infant mortality has during the first ten years of independence come down from 160 to 92, maternal mortality from 20 to 12 and maternal morbidity from 300 to 150 per 1,000 live births. But these rates are still distressingly high. As for the 1-4 year age mortality, it is 40/60 times as high as in Europe or the United States of America or Canada or Australia or New Zealand. We have one doctor to minister to the

needs of 6,000 persons, one nurse to 13,000 and one woman health visitor per 160,000 of the population. These figures are according to the ratio of trained personnel to the population but because 80 % of our people live in the villages and the very large majority of doctors and nurses are in the cities, the medical aid and relief available to the masses is in no way commensurate with our needs. We have still only 185,000 hospital beds in the whole country, including 22,000 for maternity and 4,000 for children. Leprosy is a grave problem and unless more workers and more financial aid are made available, one does not know when we shall be able to rid India of this dread disease. Tuberculosis continues to take a heavy toll of life and all the conditions which go towards encouraging the spread of this malady are present. I refer to malnutrition, under-nutrition, overcrowding and lack of beds and other facilities for isolating infectious patients. From 5,000 beds in 1947 we have raised the number to 33,000 but since we have half a million deaths per year from and five million open cases of TB you can imagine how far short we fall of what we ought to have. There are over two million blind persons in India and the tragedy is that 90 % of blindness in children and youth is preventable if only we had the means to stretch out a helping hand to those in need. Then there are the physically and mentally handicapped for whom very very little has so far been able to be done. It is sad but true that 80 % of the population who live in rural areas do not have a protected water supply and it is easy to understand what havoc is wrought by water-borne diseases. The universal lack and in many areas the complete absence of environmental hygiene and sanitation makes living conditions in rural India a sine qua non of ill health. Malaria control has greatly lessened the deaths and debility caused by this fell disease and we look forward to the day when the World Health Organization programme for ridding the globe of this pest will come to a successful end. There are other insect-borne diseases and other maladies which time does not permit me to talk about but you will gather some idea of the magnitude of our health problem when I tell you that poor health, disability and early deaths cost India well over four hundred million dollars in 1950. If this is the picture of conditions in India, the same and perhaps even worse may prevail in the other poor countries of Asia and Africa who have only

recently gained their independence and, in particular, in those who are trying to build themselves up in the democratic way. What a challenge this presents to all of us and in special measure to those who come from countries where education is within the reach of every child, where health care covers every person, where disease has to a large extent been conquered, where the lives of the physically handicapped are made livable and where old age has no longer any fears.

Familiar as we are with the needs in the countries to which we belong and cognizant as we are of world needs, what are the problems and the difficulties that confront social workers today? My experience tells me that, in the first place, the social services run by Governments do not receive the attention or material help that is their due. I believe I am right in saying that this phenomenon is not common to my country alone. I have said that we live in a scientific age but it would be equally correct to say that in our age the greater emphasis is laid on the material values of life. We are apt to judge national prosperity purely on an economic basis, on how much an individual earns and how high a target of industrial production can be reached. How often have I been asked as to why we should want to improve the health of the nation when our biggest malady is overpopulation! And equally often do some people hold that by and large education simply helps to make people dissatisfied! Little do such ignorant folk realise that intelligent co-operation can only come from those who are educated enough to understand and likewise that the skilled workman will always yield better results. And yet again that no worthwhile output can be expected from the under-nourished or poorly housed and no education can be imparted to the sick child.

I must also draw the attention towards another problem that voluntary endeavour everywhere faces. All or most democratic countries today speak of "The Welfare State". While it is the bounden duty of the State to do everything in its power to promote the welfare of its citizens, the interpretation of "The Welfare State" seems to me to be in danger of becoming much too narrow, if indeed it has not already arrogated to itself the right to control all beneficent activity. The State can never galvanise its machinery



so as to enter into the human aspect of needs. Indeed such machinery must by its very nature remain soulless with all the red tape and harassing delays that follow as a natural corollary. Therefore this is an encroachment on voluntary endeavour which must be resisted if the latter is to play its full role in the uplift of any country and of the world . . .

There is turmoil in Africa, a whole continent awaking from an age long slumber and asking to be freed from bondage. It is good to feel that political freedom is coming to Africans but mere political freedom is not going to be the solution of the many problems with which the different areas of this vast world are confronted. A veritable army of social workers would, I am sure, achieve more for the people than the United Nations has so far been able to do, for example, in the Congo. WHO and Red Cross workers have given fine service there and have won the confidence of the people simply through their humanitarian approach. I myself pray devoutly that the people of Africa will cease to resort to violence to attain their objectives, for no permanent good can ever be had that way. If racial prejudices are to be vanquished it can only be done through selfless service. If the tensions that divide nation from nation are to be lessened it can again be done best by universal collaboration in all those fields where the sole objective is human welfare. Just as the medical man cares for his patient regardless of his nationality or political creed, so also has the social servant to serve humanity. Asia and Africa need such servants. The field of work is immense and the labourers are indeed few. Teachers, doctors, nurses, physio-therapists, those skilled in the art of looking after the physically handicapped and aged, sportsmen, those willing with missionary zeal to undergo hardship are needed not only to train personnel but also to work with and for the people in outlying areas. The task to be undertaken by such workers is by no means easy. It requires courage, patience and an abounding faith in and love for humanity. But such service can keep our own hearts from hatred, it can shed goodwill and cheer among our less fortunate fellowmen, it can bring light where there is darkness, it can break through the man-made barriers of race, creed and colour, it can banish intolerance born of ignorance, it can sow the seeds of universal love and justice whereby mankind may reap the harvest of a

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warless world, it can contribute towards the creation of an atmosphere where peoples varying in languages, traditions and political institutions can feel themselves fundamentally one, united in spite of diversity of climate and race by the bonds of a common humanity.

Gandhi said " My goal is friendship with the world and I combine the greatest love of man with the greatest opposition to wrong." I learnt during the years that I was privileged to be with this great man that the Glory of Life is to love to give, not to get, to serve, not to be served, to be a strong hand in the dark to another in the time of need, to be a cup of strength to any soul in a crisis of weakness. Freedom has conquered as a way of life through great effort and willing sacrifice. It is for freedom from the bondage of poverty, hunger, and disease, for the freedom of the spirit of man that we must all rededicate our lives as we end this Conference. May we, each one of us, be given the courage, the wisdom, the love and the faith so to do is my earnest hope and prayer.

Princess AMRIT KAUR

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

### News Items

#### In Algeria and in France

The ICRC's humanitarian activity on behalf of the victims of the conflict covers various fields: visits to prisons and places of detention in France and Algeria, representations to the authorities of penal establishments, and the question of the resettlement centres.

In France, the adoption by the Government at the end of November 1961 of the political regime, so-called "régime A", for prisoners incarcerated as a result of the Algerian conflict, was followed up less than three months later by visits from ICRC delegates to various establishments. Made with the authorization of the French Government, these visits were in compliance with requests submitted by those under detention.

Between February 12 and 16, delegates of the ICRC thus visited the prisons of the Grandes and Petites Baumettes at Marseilles, where they spoke with FLN detainees as well as with French activists all held under "régime A". The delegates also went to the Thol (Ain) punishment centre and the administrative internment camp at Larzac (Aveyron).

During the second half of February the prisons at Périgueux, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Foix and Montauban, and the punishment camp at Mauzac (Dordogne), in which members of the MNA are detained, were also visited.

Furthermore, the ICRC has continued to transmit to the benevolent funds of Algerians detained in France and in Algeria, the amounts which have been remitted to it for this purpose.

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The resident-delegate of the ICRC in Algeria has actively continued to take steps resulting from the observations and suggestions contained in the report of the ICRC's XIth Mission in that country, which had been handed to the French Government at the beginning of January. The ICRC representative had in particular long discussions on February 13 with Mr. Jean Morin, Delegate General of the French Government.

### **Aid to French prisoners in the hands of the ALN**

Since the release on December 31, 1961, thanks to the persistent efforts made by the ICRC, of two French prisoners held by the ALN since January 1961, the ICRC has continued to take steps to enable three other prisoners, still in captivity, to write to their families, which they have not been permitted to do for more than a year. The ICRC has handed family message forms to the detaining authorities for this purpose in accordance with the practice of the Central Tracing Agency. So far none of these steps has led to any result.

A series of representations have been made on behalf of one prisoner held by the ALN in an area close to the Moroccan frontier, who has been prevented from sending news to his family since 1959.

These four men are the only prisoners in FLN hands whose names are known to the ICRC. Enquiries have been opened in more than 400 other cases, whilst the French Government has drawn up a nominal roll of more than 350 posted as missing. The ICRC has up to the present still been unsuccessful in obtaining any other list.

### **Cultural Relief**

The ICRC is at present despatching additional cultural material for Algerians detained in France. This consists chiefly of books in Arabic, copies of the Koran, grammars and literary works.

The ICRC had already distributed in 1960 and 1961 cultural relief, consisting of school text books and assorted literature in French and Arabic, in some thirty places of detention in France for detained Algerians.

### **Following the death of Georges Olivet and his companions**

We wrote in our last issue that Mr. Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, had reached rapid agreement on the setting up of the impartial and independent commission of enquiry into the circumstances of the death of the ICRC delegate, Mr. Georges Olivet and of the two Katanga Red Cross workers, Mrs. Vroonen and Mr. Smeding. It will be remembered that the ICRC had asked UNO to open proceedings to endeavour to

throw some light on the tragic event which, in December 1961, cost the lives of these three people.

The commission is composed of three personalities whose names we have already published. The ICRC and UNO are both represented on this commission by observers. Judge Lukas Burckhardt, from Basle, has been chosen as the ICRC's observer.

The commission met from February 6 to 8 in Geneva. Its members were welcomed by Mr. Spinelli, Director of the European Office of the United Nations, representing the Acting Secretary-General, and by the President of the ICRC. The commission's mandate was defined during these preliminary meetings and the documents available in Geneva were studied.

The commission left Geneva on Friday, February 9 and arrived in Elisabethville the following day where it immediately began its work.

In the delicate task entrusted to it, the commission has been assured of the co-operation of all interested parties. The ICRC has also received an assurance from President Tshombe, that every facility would be accorded it on the Katanga side, and that it would have access to the results of the enquiry already opened by the Katanga Legal authorities.

In Elisabethville the commission collected a considerable amount of evidence and information concerning the drama which has cast gloom over the Red Cross world. The members of the commission have just returned to Geneva where they have held a meeting on the subject, although their final report cannot be expected before several weeks.

Since no equipment existed locally enabling a thorough examination of the bodies to be made, the mortal remains of the three victims have been transported to Vienna where the work will be continued at the Institute of Forensic Medicine whose director, Professor Leopold Breitenacker, is a member of the commission. A brief and moving ceremony took place at the Elisabethville airport, UNO troops paying the last honours to the bodies as they left. Senior United Nations officials, the chief of protocol of the Government and officers of the Katanga army were also present.

### **The ICRC in Katanga**

The ICRC delegate in Katanga, Mr. G. C. Senn, left for Kongolo at the end of January, to distribute foodstuffs and medical supplies to the civilian population. However, he was not able to continue his journey beyond Stanleyville, as the Congolese Authorities did not consider they could guarantee his safety in Kongolo, where serious disorders had broken out shortly beforehand and missionaries had been massacred. During an interview with General Lundula, Commander-in-Chief of the Congolese Forces in Orientale Province, Mr. Senn insisted on being allowed to go on to Kongolo, but finally had to renounce this plan. Never-

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theless, he took steps to have 17 nuns and 47 seminarists evacuated from Kongolo.

Shortly afterwards, the ICRC delegate went to Manono, in North Katanga, where in co-operation with United Nations representatives, he handed over medicaments to the population and the local hospital.

The ICRC has also just sent a consignment from Geneva to Elisabethville, consisting of 60,000 pills for the treatment of tuberculosis. The supplies are intended for an anti-tuberculosis campaign in West Katanga.

### **The mission of the ICRC in Central Africa**

Mr. S. Gonard, Vice-President of the ICRC, charged with a study mission in Central Africa, visited the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and Kenya. He then went to Dar-es-Salaam, capital of Tanganyika.

Mr. Gonard, who is accompanied by Mr. Georges Hoffmann, delegate of the ICRC, has had a number of talks in these countries with the civil and military authorities, as well as with the local Red Cross organizations. These talks dealt with ways of ensuring a certain amount of protection, without any discrimination whatsoever, for the victims of international or internal conflicts which might break out in Africa.

### **Following the Goa conflict**

The International Committee has been authorized by the Portuguese Government to visit Indian nationals interned in the Portuguese overseas territories as a result of the conflict in Goa. It designated Mr. Robert Guinand to make these visits in Mozambique and Mr. Jacques Ruff in Macao. The latter visited 53 Indian nationals interned in the Portuguese territory of Macao, following the Goa episode.

Mr. Ruff then went to New Delhi where he obtained the Indian Government's permission to make a further visit to Portuguese prisoners and internees in Goa. Accompanied by an Indian Red Cross representative, he proceeded to Goa and has begun a tour of the internment camps. These prisoners and internees had previously been visited by an ICRC delegate in December a few days after the ending of military operations. Furthermore Mr. Robert Guinand, delegate of the ICRC has arrived in Lourenço Marques to visit Indian nationals interned in this territory of Portuguese East Africa. He began an extensive tour of the internment camps in February.

It should be added that the Indian Red Cross has sent the ICRC lists of wounded Portuguese prisoners and killed during the military operations in Goa, Diu and Damao. The total number of killed is given as 13. These lists have been immediately transmitted to the Portuguese Red Cross at Lisbon.

### **The ICRC in Laos**

The fighting in the Southern provinces of Laos on the borders of Burma and China, has sparked off a further influx of refugees and large numbers of civilians have arrived in the royal capital of Luang-Prabang. They come on foot, by canoe, helicopter and plane, but they all have one thing in common, an urgent need of relief supplies.

To meet these increased needs, the ICRC has raised a fresh credit of 50,000 Swiss francs on its relief funds, which brings to more than 200,000 Swiss francs the total devoted by the International Committee to assisting the victims of the conflict, particularly some 10,000 refugees who left the danger zones and withdrew to the Mekong valley.

ICRC delegate, Dr. Jürg Baer, immediately organised, in co-operation with the Laotian Red Cross, distributions of clothing, blankets and milk (gifts from the French Red Cross and the Children's Funds).

The Queen was present at the distribution on January 23. She also watched parcels being handed to the sick and wounded, and blood plasma and blankets (gifts from the Netherlands Red Cross) being handed over to the directorate of the hospitals.

On January 29 and 30, the ICRC delegate organised other distributions in Paksé, Sedone province, in Southern Laos, on behalf of Kha refugees who had arrived at the beginning of the year.

The ICRC has also made arrangements to send 35 cases of medical supplies to the Laotian Red Cross at Xieng-Khouang (seat of Prince Souvanna Phouma's Government). These supplies were gifts from the Polish, Indian and Swiss Red Cross Societies. This consignment will be delivered through the intermediary of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

### **Repatriation of Koreans resident in Japan**

The departure of Koreans resident in Japan and wishing to be repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was renewed at the beginning of 1962, but at a reduced rate. The 86th convoy which sailed from the Japanese port of Niigata in January consisted of less than 100 persons. At the beginning of the repatriation operations, more than one thousand Koreans left Japan each week.

### **The Events in New Guinea**

Following on the incident which took place on January 15 last in the waters of the ARU islands between units of the Indonesian and Netherlands naval forces, the Netherlands Government, responding to an appeal made by the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, agreed to release Indonesian nationals captured during this engagement. This

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agreement took place shortly after the ICRC, carrying out its customary rôle, had obtained a list of the prisoners concerned and the authorization to visit all Indonesians detained in New Guinea.

The Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations having requested the support of the International Committee, the latter instructed its delegate general for Asia, Mr. André Durand, to proceed to New Guinea in order to visit interned Indonesians and to make immediate arrangements for the transport and repatriation of prisoners entitled to benefit from the agreement made between Mr. Thant and the Netherlands Government.

The ICRC delegate arrived in Hollandia on February 12 and has visited the 52 Indonesian prisoners captured as a result of the naval engagement of January 15, and he has also visited a certain number of Indonesian civilian internees who had infiltrated into New Guinea and been arrested by the Netherlands authorities during 1960-1961.

### Guests of the ICRC

During the second half of January, the ICRC was privileged to welcome several personalities to its headquarters, amongst whom: Mr. R. W. Furlonger, the new Permanent Representative of Australia to the International Organisations in Geneva; Mr. Niels Hansen, Councillor at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Berne; Mrs. H. J. Lynch, of the Victoria Section of the Australian Red Cross; Miss Sheila M. Quinn, Director of the "Social and Economic Welfare Division" of the International Nursing Council; Mr. E. Haas, Director of Swiss Television and Advisor to the ICRC on television questions, together with some of his principal colleagues; two representatives of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Zöfelt and Mr. Riemenschneider; four Swiss army Officers, Colonel Albisetti, Colonel K. H. Schaeffer, Colonel C. Schaeffer and Major Weidmann, on a study visit to the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

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## RELIEF TO THE RESETTLED POPULATION

In Algeria, the ICRC has to undertake increasing commitments and in addition to the assistance which it has given to prisoners and internees since the beginning of the conflict, it has intensified its relief action to the civilian population in the resettlement centres.<sup>1</sup>

Thus since the beginning of 1962, it has delivered 26 tons of relief supplies in Algiers. This comprised 20 tons of powdered milk placed at the disposal of the ICRC by the Swiss Confederation out of surplus dairy produce, as well as 6 tons of clothing and miscellaneous relief, including sugar, soap, concentrated soup, etc.

35 tons of sugar acquired through ICRC relief funds have also been despatched to Algiers.

Furthermore, the ICRC will make use of cash contributions (130,000 Swiss francs having so far been received from various sources including the Swiss Red Cross), for the purchase of "kacha-bias" (children's cloaks with hoods), blankets, soap, ophthalmic drops, malted milk and tonics. In addition 150 tons of powdered milk and 10 tons of processed cheese, provided from surplus government stocks, will be distributed during the course of the year.

The resettled population in Algeria has already benefited from ICRC relief exceeding an amount of 1,300,000 Swiss francs.

These supplies are distributed in the resettlement centres by the General Delegation of the French Red Cross in Algeria, in co-operation with the ICRC resident delegate.

Generally speaking, however, the needs of the resettled population continue to be extremely pressing. It is estimated that there are about 2,200,000 persons, mostly women and children, distributed among some 2,000 centres.

In most cases these centres are located near land which can be cultivated by their owners who have kept their own produce and livestock and who can thus subsist under normal conditions.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

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Other camps, on the other hand, have been established in barren regions, often at great distances from towns. Deprived of their means of sustenance, these groups suffer great hardship and are entirely dependent upon assistance given by the public authorities and various charitable organizations.

The ICRC started to tackle this problem when the first Centres were set up in 1957. Whenever its delegates went on missions to places of detention, they made contact with the General Delegation of the French Red Cross, so that relief action could be organized in those Centres in which conditions were the hardest.

At the present moment, the French Red Cross has available for its distributions 21 mobile nursing teams, each of which is provided with a lorry equipped as a dispensary.

Distribution on the spot is made by the local Red Cross Committee of which 67 exist for the whole of Algeria.

The permanent ICRC delegate, at present assisted by a deputy, frequently takes part in the distribution of relief in the various Centres.



*A French Red Cross truck in the Philippeville region with milk and medicaments presented by the ICRC to some of the resettled...*

## THE ICRC IN ALGERIA

*...who are seen here waiting for the distribution of these supplies.*





*Children receiving milk in a resettlement centre near Tebessa...*

## THE ICRC IN ALGERIA

*... and chocolate given by the ICRC in a centre near Souk-Ahras.*



## **THE ACTIVITY OF THE CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY IN 1961**

During the past year, the Central Tracing Agency dealt with 66,348 cases and opened 20,525 enquiries with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Government ministries, Registrar and Municipal offices, etc. The volume of work thus continues to be considerable.

The Central Agency has naturally had to deal with additional work as a result of the events in Algeria, the Congo, Tunis, Angola, Goa and Indonesia, which involved tracing military and civilian missing, as well as the transmission of family messages.

The Central Agency has also, however, had as in the past, to continue its activity deriving from the Second World War and from the conflicts and disturbances which have taken place since 1945. It has in particular involved discovering the fate of combatants missing on operations or of prisoners of war and civilian internees who have not returned to their own country, delivering certificates of captivity or of hospitalization to former prisoners making such requests, and to take steps to obtain records of decease.

Furthermore, the Central Agency continues to receive numerous requests from families whose members were separated during the second world conflict, in the immediate post-war period, the events in Hungary, etc. These cases require very thorough investigations, either in the country of origin or of emigration. The result of such enquiries enables the Agency, at the request of those concerned and provided they fulfil the necessary conditions, to undertake steps leading to their being reunited with their close relatives.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that, in the various sections of the Central Agency, the proportion of enquiries with positive results continues to increase. Thus, during 1961, about one third of the enquiries had fruitful results. This is most encouraging and illustrates how the National Societies and the various bodies, both official and unofficial, are co-operating ever more effectively with the ICRC in its work.

## PUBLICATIONS

### PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN 1961

531. — Publication in Arabic of the pamphlet mentioned under No. 527, Fr. 0.50.

532. — Henri COURSIER, Adviser—Legal Department, International Committee of the Red Cross. Translated by M.C.S. PHIPPS. (This volume was originally published in French in the «Que sais-je?» series under the title “La Croix-Rouge internationale” by the Presses Universitaires de France, Paris).—1961. In-8, 131 p., Fr. 3.50.

533. — CICR. **Rapport d'activité 1960.** — 1961. In-8, 75 p., pl., Fr. 5.—.

534. — IKRK. **Bericht über die Tätigkeit des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz 1960.**—1961. Gr.-8, 77 p. roneo., Fr. 5.—.

535. — ICRC. **Annual Report 1960.** — 1961. In-8, 71 p., pl., Fr. 5.—.

536. — CICR. **Informe de Actividad 1960.** — 1961. In-8, 73 p., pl., Fr. 5.—.

537. — Jean S. PICTET, Directeur des Affaires générales du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge. **Le Droit de la Guerre.** — 1961. In-8, 11 p., Fr. 1.50.

538. — Jean S. PICTET, Director for General Affairs of the International Committee of the Red Cross. **The Laws of war.** — 1961. In-8, 11 p., Fr. 1.50.

539. — Jean S. PICTET, Director de Asuntos Generales del Comité internacional de la Cruz Roja. **El Derecho de la Guerra.** — 1961. In-8, 12 p., Fr. 1.50.

540. — Jean S. PICTET, Direktor für Allgemeine Angelegenheiten des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz. **Das Kriegsrecht.** — 1961. In-8, 11 p., Fr. 1.50.

541. — **Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge.** Brochure d'information. — 1961. In-8, 22 p. ronéo., pl., Fr. 1.50.

542. — **The International Committee of the Red Cross.** Information pamphlet. — 1961. In-8, 21 p. roneo., pl., Fr. 1.50.

543. — **El Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja.** Quaderno informativo. — 1961. In-8, 23 p. ronéo., pl., Fr. 1.50.

544. — **Das Internationale Komitee vom Roten Kreuz.** Werbeschrift. — 1961. In-8, 22 p. roneo, pl., Fr. 1.50.

545. — **Il Comitato internazionale della Croce Rossa.** Opuscoli d'informazione. — 1961. In-8, 22 p. roneo., pl., Fr. 1,50.

546. — CICR. **L'Agence centrale de recherches.** 1961. In-8, 22 p. ronéo, pl., Fr. 2.25.

547. — ICRC. **The Central Tracing Agency.** 1961. In-8, 21 p. roneo, pl., Fr. 2.25.

548. — CICR. **La Agencia Central de Informaciones.** 1961. In-8, 23 p. ronéo, pl., Fr. 2.25.

549. — IKRK. **Der Zentrale Suchdienst.** 1961. In-8, 23 p. roneo, pl., Fr. 2.25.

550. — CICR. **L'Agenzia centrale di ricerche.** 1961. In-8, 21 p. ronéo, pl., Fr. 2.25.

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JOINT PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS  
AND THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

C.L.70. — **The Geneva Conventions. Handbook** (followed by an outline of the organisation of the International Red Cross) 1961. In-8, 66 p., ill., Fr. 2.25.

C.L.71. — **Assistance médicale au Congo.** Rapport sur l'action de la Croix-Rouge internationale chargée de pourvoir en personnel quelque trente hôpitaux abandonnés dans la République du Congo nouvellement indépendante pour une période d'urgence de 12 mois. Juillet 1960-Juin 1961. — 1961. In-8, 29 p., pl., Fr. 2.50.

C.L.72. — **Congo Medical Relief.** Report on the International Red Cross action to staff for an emergency period of twelve months some thirty abandoned hospitals in the newly independent Republic of the Congo. July 1960-June 1961. — 1961. In-8, 29 p., pl., Fr. 2.50.

C.L.73. — **Asistencia medica en el Congo.** Informe sobre la accion de la Cruz Roja internacional encargada de proporcionar personal, durante un periodo de emergencia de doce meses, para unos treinta hospitales abandonados, en la nueva Republica del Congo. Julio de 1960-Junio de 1961. — 1961. In-8, 29 p., pl., Fr. 2.50.

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# NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

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## Australia

*During her visit to Australia, Miss Pfrter, delegate of the ICRC, had the opportunity of visiting not only the headquarters of the Australian Red Cross in Melbourne, but also several provincial divisions of that National Society. She has recorded that there is great enthusiasm everywhere which has led to the realisation of several practical projects of extreme interest for other National Societies, which will be an encouragement to them. Mrs. W. R. B. Donnan, Divisional Commandant, Western Australian Division, has been so good as to forward a brief report to us on the action of that Division in cases of disaster, and Miss L. W. Bloore, Supervisor, New South Wales Division, has also sent us a report on a particularly useful effort in the social sphere.*

### **The Discharged Servicemen's Handcraft Centre New South Wales Division**

In various States in Australia the Red Cross Society conducts Centres where disabled ex-service men and women are trained in handcrafts as a diversion and as a means of augmenting their pensions.

In the New South Wales Division a centre was opened in Sydney in 1945 known as the Discharged Servicemen's Handcraft Centre. Since then many thousands of totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen and temporarily incapacitated ex-servicemen have been enrolled.

All trainees must have a medical reference to ensure that the service is being given to men and women who will benefit by having an opportunity to learn some types of crafts and who can enjoy the satisfaction of engaging in creative work.

The Centre is frequently used by doctors as a conditioning place when they are endeavouring to train men to once more get used to arriving at work on time, coping with public transport, making decisions for themselves and finding their work tolerable before taking up full time employment.

Many psychiatric cases have been helped by having a period of time in this sheltered environment prior to returning to work in the community.

The service is extended to the disabled dependents of service men so that some women and children also attend. To cater for the interests of the different age groups a great variety of hand-crafts are taught. An average of 50 cases per day attend and trainees spend whatever time the doctor recommends.<sup>1</sup> This gives a constant change of people daily as few are able to attend regularly.

It was decided that an outlet should be provided for the goods, so an area at the entrance to Red Cross House was fitted as a shop. This is very attractive with modern glass fixtures and lighting.

The trainees pay for the material which they use and then receive the full amount of the sale. Certain standards of proficiency are required before goods can be placed in the shop. A steady business has been built up and most trainees are now working on orders. The availability of good wool yarn makes the weaving of cloth and other items a special feature, also the weaving of unspun wool. Kangaroo hide is especially good for plaiting, items made from this type of hide have souvenir value and are sought by overseas visitors. Special attention is given to fashion goods and colour schemes, so that the shop takes its place in the city with other business houses and customers purchase because of the quality of the goods and not because it is the work of disabled people.

For the assistance of the home-bound, a Home Visiting Service is carried out in the metropolitan area.<sup>2</sup> To meet the needs of country people a Correspondence course was devised. This has been an interesting experiment and many lonely, sick people in the far outback have had great pleasure from having this interest and in particular those members who send their work to the shop.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

<sup>2</sup> *Plate.*

A very important part of the work of the Department is the training of the teaching staff. The New South Wales Division has a training course and all staff teachers are required to take the course. A continuity of teaching methods is considered necessary when dealing with sick people.

The Centre is more like a club than a workshop. The area is spacious and comfortable and every effort is made to make it a happy meeting place. A healthy spirit of competition adds zest and interest and men and women have expressed their gratitude to the Red Cross for being able to engage in interesting and purposeful occupation and in so doing learn to adjust themselves to the restriction of their disabilities.

MISS L. W. BLOORE

### **The action of the Red Cross in cases of disaster Western Australian Division**

During one of the hottest summers on record a series of fires started in heavily timbered and grassed areas in the South West of our State. Fanned by near gale-force winds, the fires raced through the countryside forcing many people to leave their homes. Although there were at times up to three hundred men fighting the fires, one town—a timber centre—was almost completely destroyed.

As soon as the Red Cross heard of the disaster it took immediate action. Teams of voluntary workers were sent to the devastated areas with food, clothing and medical supplies. Many people had lost everything they possessed except what they were wearing, so more clothing was an immediate necessity. Boxes and cases of clothing sent in to Headquarters were sorted and packed and sent down to the fire victims and the Voluntary Aides distributed the clothing. Other groups of Aides made meals and hot and cold drinks for the fire fighters, who had been on duty for many hours. Meals were also prepared and served for the women and children who had lost their homes.

The Red Cross Aides in their uniforms were able to give much help and comfort to the distressed, the uniforms commanding a great deal of respect and trust and hope.

For a week we kept up a roster of Aides, who went down at six-hourly intervals, until the emergency was over.

During the height of the fires, eyes were affected by the heat and smoke. We found that eye irrigators were a wonderful help in relieving this distress. Red Cross Aides set up centres, where they treated eyes with the irrigators, which were filled with a saline solution.

Rather remarkably, with such disastrous fires, there were no casualties.

We had hardly completed this emergency when reports were received of a cyclone sweeping down on two of our Northern towns—Onslow and Carnarvon.

It was feared that Carnarvon might be flooded, due to the river breaking its banks, so it was decided to evacuate about 2,000 people a distance of 250 miles. An emergency centre was set up at Geraldton and again we were in action. Clothing, food and helpers were again needed. Tents were erected, beds and bedding supplied and soon a kitchen, clothing centre, first aid post, post office and all necessary requisites were supplied.<sup>1</sup> Our Aides had again been called upon and had done a sterling job.

We had just started to settle back into normal routine, when another series of fires broke out—this time within 20 miles of Perth. Once more our Service Corps were called upon to prepare and serve meals for the firefighters and to give first aid treatment.<sup>2</sup>

Now there seemed to be a series of fires breaking out in other parts of the State. Our country Branches were called upon to give assistance and to take immediate action.

Rain eventually came to our rescue and the fire situation came under control.

The Red Cross had gained a great deal of experience in the necessity for preparedness and had carried out a series of worthwhile and satisfying humanitarian tasks. We had, we felt, upheld the honour of our Society.

MRS W. R. B. DONNAN

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

<sup>2</sup> *Plate.*



*Collecting handcraft work made by the disabled in their own homes.*

# **AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS (New South Wales Division)**

*Handcraft Centre for disabled ex-servicemen in Sydney.*





*Victims of the fires being transported to hospitals in Perth.*

#### AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS (Western Division)

*First aid post set up during the floods in Carnarvon.*



## New Zealand

The Annual Report of the New Zealand Red Cross Society for 1960-1961<sup>1</sup> opens with the question which Henry Dunant asked in his book "A Memory of Solferino": "Would it not be possible to form, in all countries of Europe, relief societies for the purpose of having care given by volunteers to the wounded in wartime, without distinction of nationality?" The mind thus follows the road which has been travelled for the last hundred years and the report is, amongst many other things, a definite illustration of humanitarian progress.

In his message, the President of the Society recalls that, in addition to the financial aid and gifts of clothing, milk and medical supplies sent overseas, the Red Cross was able, in conjunction with the Government, to send a physiotherapist to Morocco and two doctors to the Congo. Throughout New Zealand, local authorities are planning for Civil Defence and all Red Cross centres should be taking an active part in these arrangements; in fact, the National Society is one of the two organisations responsible for giving instruction in first aid and home nursing to the general public. The President also recalls that the theme for World Red Cross Day 1961 was "The Red Cross helps across the street, across the nation, across the world" and he ends by saying: "We will continue to endorse this theme."

The Annual Report begins with international activities. "The past twelve months may well be unprecedented in the peacetime history of the New Zealand Red Cross for at no other time has our organisation been so extensively involved in the relief of suffering in other countries. Almost every month has seen the launching of a new appeal for aid.

In April, there was the earthquake in Iran which caused the death of hundreds of people and left numerous injured in its wake. In May, Chile was struck by an earthquake which devastated the southern part of the country. The Red Cross launched a national appeal, as a result of which more than 50 tons of relief supplies

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<sup>1</sup> *Annual Report 1960-61*, New Zealand Red Cross Society Incorporated.

comprising 197 cases of clothing and blankets valued at approximately £15,500, were sent to the scene of the disaster. The New Zealand Government contributed £10,000 to this action and the Red Cross set aside £500 from its disaster relief fund. In all, more than £41,000 were received by the Society for its action on behalf of Chile. Amongst these gifts, one stands out by virtue of its originality and which, so we are told, was greatly appreciated ; this was a consignment of 1,200 carcasses of frozen mutton which a New Zealand firm had in store in Peru at the time and which it sent to the scene of the disaster. As can be seen from the report, the New Zealand Red Cross responded to numerous appeals for aid to disaster victims in several countries.

With regard to the Society's activities in New Zealand, particular mention should be made of those undertaken on behalf of old people. A section of the report, entitled " Meals on wheels ", deals with an interesting development : meals are prepared and delivered to the homes of people too old to move about. During 1960, in the North Canterbury centre alone, 26,200 meals were served, whilst 10 years ago, the figure was 4,600. " Old people's gatherings " are also continuing successfully. They provide the opportunity of meetings in a sympathetic atmosphere and they allow the organisers to keep an eye on members' health. Outings are also organised, on which members of the Junior Red Cross are enthusiastic helpers. It should also be mentioned that, in a club recently set up, a therapist teaches handcrafts to the disabled and this idea has spread to other centres which are applying it to old people as well.

The Red Cross was also present in the hospitals where its members frequently brought comfort to patients who had no friends or relatives. In Wellington, Red Cross members entertained a number of mental patients and organised outings for them. Also in the hospitals, Red Cross volunteers manage cafeterias for out-patients who can thus have snacks free, or at a nominal charge. Sick children are also the subject of Red Cross attention and members contrive to keep them amused by reading to them. The mobile library services and occupational therapy also fall within the province of the Red Cross and the Juniors are very active in these fields.

With regard to Civil Defence, mentioned by the President of the Society in his message, the report points out that the slow but



steady development of this organisation in New Zealand is proving to be a stimulus for many Red Cross centres. An ever-increasing number of local authorities are laying plans for use in a future emergency and many sections of the Society will be called upon to undertake a variety of first aid tasks.

We should like to end this article on a somewhat original note, but one which expresses only too well the financial worries of a Red Cross Society and the ingenuity which has to be used to overcome them. Having a considerable job of work to do, and consequently having to find a large sum of money, one of the sub-centres compiled a cookery-book with excellent recipes contributed by members and friends of the Red Cross. Two thousand copies were printed and Centres throughout New Zealand were asked to assist with sales. It is with this example of ingenuity and solidarity that we end these notes which, although far too brief, will give readers some idea of the pioneer work being undertaken in New Zealand under the Red Cross emblem.

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### Norway

In its issue of July 1960, the *Revue internationale* published a short article on the results of the co-operation, in Norway, between the Government and the Red Cross with a view to the wide scale dissemination of the Geneva Conventions. This co-operation had made it possible to distribute to the civil and military authorities a complete edition of the text of the four Conventions, printed thanks to the National Society and to the army medical services. Another edition—with commentaries—was also published by a magistrate, whilst the Red Cross itself distributed a résumé of the four Conventions to the military academies and the civil defence training centres, etc. ; moreover, in September 1959, the Red Cross distributed to the crews of all Norwegian vessels, a booklet on the Second Convention, which concerns the condition of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea.

Wishing to reach a wider section of the population, the Red Cross made the key-note of its 1961 "Red Cross Week" the diffusion of the Geneva Conventions amongst adults and young people, with particular emphasis on the latter. With this in view, it distributed a Red Cross paper published during the "Week", and intended for young people, and it also distributed a booklet for children. In all, 800,000 copies of both papers were printed, which shows the importance of this action.

In order to present the Geneva Conventions to its readers, the Red Cross paper printed a long article entitled "The law of charity during war" with the subtitle: "The Red Cross idea". The introduction recalled that aid to the sick and wounded victims of war goes back to ancient times, but that the event which gave birth to the Red Cross was Henry Dunant's experience on the battlefield. A short historical section then explains the development of the circumstances leading from the First Convention of 1864, to the four Conventions of 1949; the latter are the subject of the long article mentioned above, which represents an attempt at popularization in the best sense of the word.

The press also played an important part in disseminating the Geneva Conventions, particularly by encouraging their distribution amongst young people and children. The Horten newspaper "Gjengangeren", remarked in this respect, that thanks to close co-operation with the Church and the State, the "Red Cross Week" had that year succeeded in reaching every school in the country and every youth organisation. Moreover, thanks to the support of certain institutions, such as the Post Office, the Savings Bank, certain publicity services of the press, etc., the organisation of the "Week" only involved the Red Cross in very small expenditure.

One can only applaud this co-operation with the above mentioned official organisations, because by their nature, they contribute towards facilitating the work of the Red Cross and overcoming indifference. It should also be mentioned that 250,000 copies of the "Week" newspaper, were printed and distributed to

colleges, professional institutes, seminars, schools and youth organisations.

Another organ of the press, the "Akershus Amtstidende", attaches great significance to this event : " It is primarily youth which is affected this year and it is not an easy thing to make youth understand the importance of the Geneva Conventions for us. The Norwegian Red Cross has treated this subject in a manner both brief and easily understandable, adapted to all ages and all levels of intelligence ".

The Norwegian Red Cross has sent the ICRC the booklet which it published on that occasion and which is intended to teach young people what the 1949 Conventions are. This publication is moving in the understanding it reveals with regard to the child ; not much text, a lot of pictures, most expressive in their simplicity, which are emphasized by short captions. We cannot remain indifferent, faced with these serious subjects brought within the reach of a child, without however falling into childishness.

It should also be mentioned that the Norwegian Red Cross intends to continue its efforts to spread the knowledge of the Conventions amongst military personnel, and that it is thinking of distributing a booklet on the four Conventions to the public.

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# CHRONICLE

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## Nursing Problems

The *International Review* has already spoken on numerous occasions of the important XIIth Quadrennial Congress of the International Council of Nurses, but it has had to confine itself to brief information pending the arrival of sufficient documentation. Today, it is in a position to give its readers, if not an exhaustive study, which, for lack of space, could not be printed in this Review, at least a glimpse of some of the work of this meeting.

As we have previously mentioned, this Congress took place in Melbourne from April 16 to 22, 1961, with the theme "Wisdom and guidance through professional Organization". It gathered together more than 1,300 nurses from 44 countries in five continents. The opening was marked by official ceremonies and the Congress then set to work in first class conditions, thanks to the perfect organization of the host institution, the Royal Australian Nursing Federation.

The ICRC was represented by the head of the Medical Personnel Section, Miss A. Pfirter, who was already in Asia and who went to Australia to take part in this Congress, which made a most favourable impression on her. Besides the International Committee, the League of Red Cross Societies was represented, as were other international organizations, notably the World Health Organization and the International Labour Office.

\* \* \*

Three basic elements formed the nucleus of the work : statutory deliberations of the Congress ; two papers dealing with : a) Nursing as a profession and b) The Professional nursing association and you,

and which constituted the two principal themes of the Congress ; finally group work comprising reports on the following subjects :

Group I : Nursing Education

Group II : Nursing Service

Group III : Economic Welfare

Group IV : Public Relations

The journal of the International Council of Nurses, entitled *International Nursing Review*, has devoted one of its numbers to this Congress and it is partly from the documents distributed at Melbourne that our information is drawn. It opens with the paper read by Mrs. M. Jahoda, of London, " Nursing as a Profession ", which is of very real interest from the psychological point of view. Basing herself on a definition of social psychology, according to which it is " an attempt to understand and explain how the thought, feeling and behaviour of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined or implied presence of other human beings ", Mrs. Jahoda asks : " What is a profession ? ". She illumines the different aspects of a profession, a professional situation and its social mechanisms. She then asks whether the nursing profession allows its members, as well as the patients, to feel to the utmost the solidarity which binds them. She is convinced that it does, and she goes on to say that the nursing profession is unique in the sense that it is so organized as to ensure the protection of its members at the same time as being a service. These two aspects of the nursing profession can only be linked in harmony if they are approached in a rational manner, both on the thought level and on the action level. To do this, it is advisable not only to draw inspiration from the great ideal of service, but also to remember that every profession today requires one to take into account concrete realities and day to day worries.

Mrs. Jahoda concludes by saying :

" In conclusion, let me once more revert to my central theme : does the nursing profession adequately protect its members and the needs of patients and the community ? You can see from what I have said that I have no ready-made answer to that question. By virtue of claiming professional status you are committed both to

service and to self-protection. But as the profession is constituted today, you are facing grave problems in both respects which may yield only to radical thought and radical action. This challenge, I am sure, will not discourage you. For the search for the best balance between these twin tasks of professional organization and to adjust it to the ever changing needs of the community is in keeping not only with the great ideals of nursing, it is also the most human and most humane goal any profession can embrace."

\* \* \*

The subject dealt with by Miss Alice Girard, M.A., B.Sc., R.N., Director of Nursing, Hospital St. Luc, Montreal, was *The Professional Nursing Association-and You*. We shall deal more fully with this subject since it is of obvious interest to National Societies and we print hereunder a summary of Miss Girard's paper :

From time immemorial, human beings have felt a basic need to associate together. The professional associations were born of this need to strive together towards the same aim.

We represent professional nurses from all parts of the world. In spite of differences of race, language, governments and economic conditions, we have a common ideal which unites us. But this ideal would have very little significance or force if it were not constantly revised and our efforts to renew and adapt ourselves to the changing world were not maintained.

Let us consider some of the changing influences of this world :  
 — the need for instruction and better living conditions making itself felt everywhere ;  
 — the rapidity of means of communication ;  
 — the technical and scientific revolution which has had a considerable influence on medicine and nursing.

It is in this rapidly evolving world that the nurse has to work, and she can only do so with the support of her professional associations.

We know that physiological and psychological adaptation is constantly required of the human organism. It is the same with a professional association if it is to maintain the high quality of its aims. In return, the association needs a conscious and individual effort from each of its members.

The professional association has aims which far surpass private and pecuniary interests. It endeavours to raise the profession to its maximum level of usefulness to the community. In order to have the moral and social force to defend this ideal, the nursing association must be composed of numbers of members amongst whom there is complete unity. The association must be stimulated by the fact that our society has so great a need of nurses. But the nurses must maintain contact with other professional groups, exchange ideas and emerge from the silence which they have kept for far too long. By becoming conscious of her duties and her rights, the nurse can only be more effective in looking after her patients.

If the national nursing associations attached to the ICN differ in their organisation (committees, statutes, rules, etc.) they nevertheless have a common ideal and common aims: to create and maintain a high level of professional training, carry out research or systematic investigation into nursing, ensure economic security for their members and make each member aware of her mission.

The development of nursing means that the professional nurse is more and more called upon to leave her task to non-professional workers, whom she must instruct and direct when she is quite prepared to do the nursing herself. Dr. L. Simmons remarked that "one of the dilemmas of nursing is that the further one progresses in the profession, the further one moves from the patient." It is for the nursing association to see that this development is always adapted to the nurse's mission, which is to tend the sick, body and soul. It must also see that the nurse's attitude to the patient and the public is both an example and a lesson.

Nursing techniques, however developed they may be, should not blind one to the fact that the nurse is primarily there to serve. Observation, understanding and sympathy remain the distinctive elements of a good nurse. "The educated man must be master of his technology and not subservient to it."

Finally, it is for the professional association to see that material and social conditions make the nursing profession attractive and thus ensure satisfactory recruiting. It is for this reason that "research", the systematic study of the future of nursing, must be undertaken by the national nursing associations in all parts of the world.

In the sphere of "research" and "investigation", the International Council of Nurses is there to help them, to advise them and to guide them. The national associations will not be alone in their efforts to ensure the best possible standard of nursing in the world.

Miss Girard adds that whatever its structure or means of activity, a national nursing association must concern itself with maintaining a sufficiently high level of professional education, with seeking economic security for its members, with building for the future by discovering fresh tasks to be undertaken: in a word it must preserve the traditional values which have proved their worth and add to these values those which involve a modern and practical awareness of life. Because the nurse also has rights in the economic sphere: a reasonable standard of living, opportunities for promotion, sensible working conditions, security in work and retirement, and this must be watched over by the community itself.

\* \* \*

As can be seen, two principal themes emerge from the foregoing papers: *a*) the necessity for the nursing services to be constantly taking scientific progress into account and *b*) the protection of the nurse in the field of work and social security.

There were other speeches which, taken as a whole, reflect the same preoccupations, albeit from different aspects, and we shall therefore confine ourselves to quoting some of their titles: Administration for Nursing Service, the Responsibilities of a Professional Nurses' Association for the Improvement of Nursing Service, the Economic Aspect of Nursing, Means of Communication within the Nursing Profession and with other Professions and Occupational Groups, Organisation for Nursing Education related to Changing Trends in Medicine and Public Health.

We finish this article by pointing out that the watch-word decided on for the next four years is "inquiry", and we think it useful to recall some of the essential ideas put forward by Miss Ellen Broe, Director of the International Council of Nurses Education Division, in a speech entitled "Planning for the Future" in which she reminds heads of nursing of the benefits which accrue from broadening the mind and the need for research.



" There is a great deal of discussion today on the question of research and whether nurses should carry out research.

Many inquiries into nursing and education for nursing have been undertaken either by nurses or with the participation of nurses. How far these inquiries have carried us it is hard to say. Some answers have certainly been found and some of the recommendations that have emerged may become of great help to international as well as national groups....

Against the background of such developments as have been sketched—with community health programmes and the preparation of nurses directed towards the work with families—it seems that we will need to study our situation very carefully, and not only study it, but also experiment with different types of educational programmes in different settings.

This will require a complete open-mindedness, a willingness to change, to accept failure and to persevere—perhaps over a very long time—in the search for the best possible education for nurses.

I believe there is a need not only for national groups to get together, but also for an international group to meet and discuss the type of inquiry into nursing education which we ought to have. Internationally, the important thing is to discover all the profound things people have in common rather than the superficial things in which they differ. The time seems to have come when we should consider examining : what do people entrusted to the care of nurses expect from them ? In what particular aspects, in their opinion, can nurses help them in a better way than other members of the health team ? On this basis we could in a realistic way study the functions of nurses and thus plan for the future of nursing education.

In examining our functions we must look at our traditions and see whether they keep us back or lead us on in our work for the future. The best inheritance we can carry over from the past is the unshaken faith in the course of nursing.

The spirit which continually drives nurses on to seek better ways, as Miss Nightingale spoke about it, will stimulate the nurses of the future not to leave any stone unturned in their attempts to improve nursing care through the improvement of nursing education."

## M I S C E L L A N E O U S

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### THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL LAW

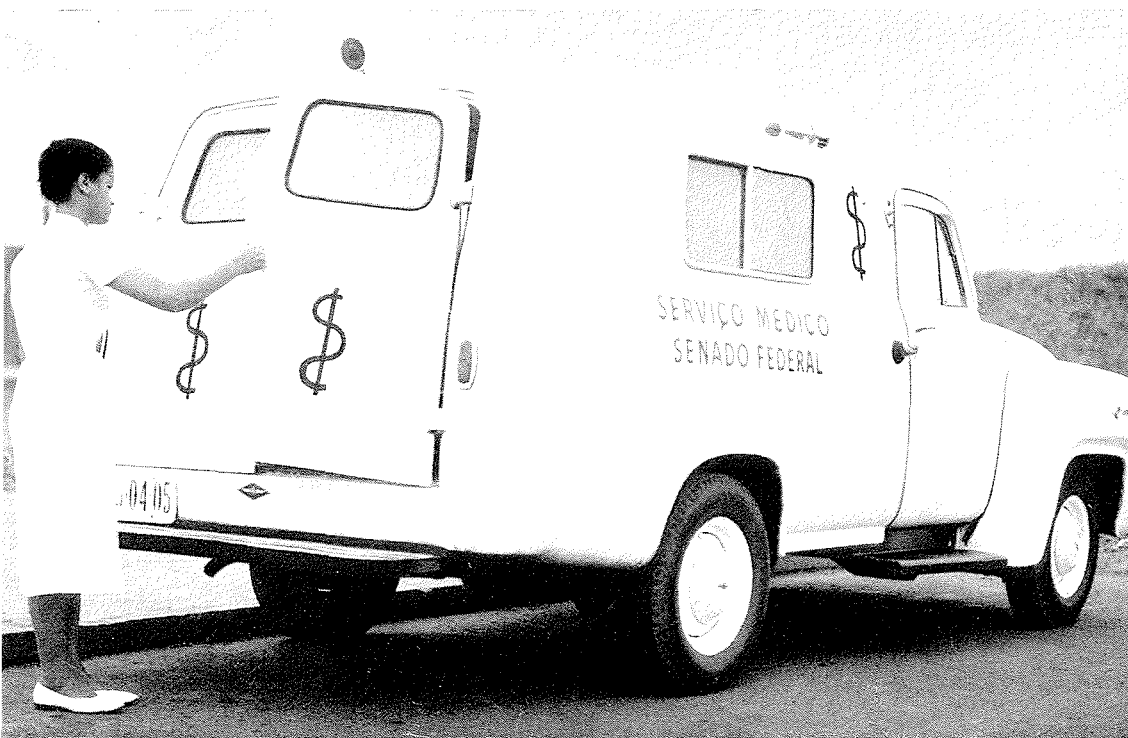
Readers of the *Revue internationale* are aware that several years ago the ICRC and the two large international organizations, consisting of civilian and military doctors, the World Medical Association and the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, set up a working party to make a joint study of certain aspects in the protection of the medical professions in time of war.<sup>1</sup> The first results of this party's work are also known and have appeared in detail in the publications mentioned below, as well as in the ICRC's 425th Circular of February 9, 1959 to the National Red Cross Societies. Furthermore, these results were submitted to the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross in October 1961 in Prague. The *International Review* published the Resolution which was passed by the Council on the subject.<sup>2</sup>

We would briefly recall that the measures adopted by the Working Party aim at strengthening in a practical manner the protection due to civil medical personnel in times of conflicts of all descriptions. In order to achieve this object it is necessary on the one hand to proclaim and to have certain essential rules of the profession recognized : political neutrality, the exclusive attention to victims, aid without discrimination, and, on the other hand, to accustom all categories of medical personnel and the public to the displaying of a special distinctive sign, the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground. In order to give these measures the maximum effect, the

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<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale*, November 1955, May 1956, September and November 1957, May 1958, April 1959, June 1961, also *International Review*, June 1961.

<sup>2</sup> See *International Review*, November 1961.



**BRAZIL:** *Ambulance of the Brazilian Federal Senate displaying the emblem of the staff of Aesculapius.*

States are invited to accord their agreement, indeed to give them the sanction of law.<sup>1</sup>

In order to examine the result of the deliberations of the Council of Delegates at Prague, the Working Party recently met for its IXth Discussion which took place at Liège on January 30 and 31, and which was admirably organized by General J. Voncken, Secretary-General of the I.C.M.M.P. The representatives of the three above-mentioned organizations took part in this discussion at which an observer of the World Health Organization was also present. Furthermore, representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies and of the Medico-Legal Commission of Monaco were invited to follow the debates.

The following resolution was adopted :

*The Working Party,*

*Desirous of seeing the measures proposed for the protection of civil medical personnel accepted without delay by the largest possible number of States and given sanction if need be by national legislation, records with satisfaction the resolution adopted on this subject by the National Red Cross Societies meeting in the Council of Delegates at Prague in October 1961,*

*voices the wish that between now and the forthcoming International Conference of the Red Cross, the National Societies will be able, together with the professional organizations concerned in their countries, to intervene effectively with their Governments to have the proposed measures accepted,*

*calls upon all the national organizations comprising doctors, dentists and nurses, not only to support the efforts being made by the Red Cross Societies, but also to put these measures into operation, especially those connected with the emblem of the staff of Aesculapius and requests the World Medical Association to transmit this recommendation to these organizations,*

*requests the three institutions represented on that body to intervene with the World Health Organization in order that the latter submit,*

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<sup>1</sup> This has already been done by certain States : Argentina, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg. Furthermore, the text of the recently adopted Brazilian Law will also be found below.

## MISCELLANEOUS

*in a form which it may itself decide, the result of the studies of the Working Party to the favourable attention of the member States so that they may accept its application,*

*invites the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue the study, if necessary, of an eventual transposition of the proposed measures into rules of positive international law.*

The participants in this IXth Discussion had the opportunity of being present at and in taking part in the deliberations of the Commission of International Medical Law of the International Law Association, which had been convened by the same organizers on the same dates, also at Liège. They were most interested in certain subjects discussed by this Commission and in particular by its efforts for drawing up a Statute for "medical institutions". This question, which is entirely new, will no doubt be further considerably developed and the International Committee will certainly have the opportunity of subsequently referring to it in the *International Review*.

The Commission has furthermore expressed its wish to see improvements made in the protection of medical aviation and especially of helicopters engaged in evacuating the wounded. It has learned with satisfaction that the ICRC, which also shares this desire, considers making a study of this problem in the near future and will without doubt renounce proceeding on its own in this direction.

J. P. S.

## THE STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS HAS BECOME OFFICIAL IN BRAZIL

Brazil is one of the first countries in the world to adopt a law enforcing the use of the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, by all members of the medical and auxiliary professions, except, naturally, those who have the right to display the sign of the red cross.<sup>1</sup> This is its text as it appeared in the official gazette of the

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

United States of Brazil (October 2, 1961) and freely translated :

Records of the Legislative Power :

Law No. 3960 of September 20, 1961.

Instituting the obligatory use of the distinctive emblem for national health organizations and laying down other provisions.

The President of the Republic :

I hereby make it known that the National Congress decrees and that I sanction the following law :

Art. 1. The emblem suggested by the International Committee of the Red Cross, represented by the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, as on the attached sketch, will be adopted for the obligatory and exclusive use of all national health units, whether public or private, in order to protect and to distinguish the members of medical and auxiliary professions in the exercising of their activities.

Unique paragraph. The provisions of this article do not apply to the Nation's Armed Forces in regard to whom will be observed the international treaties and conventions signed by Brazil and which concern the use of the red cross emblem.

Art. 2. Within 90 days of the publication of the present law, the Executive Power will determine, through the intermediary of the Minister of Health, the statutory provisions for its strict enforcement.

Art. 3. The present law will enter into force on the day of its publication, rescinding all provisions to the contrary.

Brasilia, September 20, 1961, 140th year of Independence and 73rd of the Republic.

Joao Goulart,  
Tancredo Neves  
Souto Maior.

## MENTAL HEALTH

It seems that education in mental health is beginning to become a reality. The tendency to ostracize the mentally ill is diminishing and the detection of the first signs of derangement, indicating a need for attention, is increasing more and more. Today it is possible to carry out primary prevention, up to a certain point and secondary prevention on a far wider scale. Psychiatrists often show a negative attitude towards such cases, as if disorders from known causes or illness which could be prevented are no concern of theirs. Their view is that it is for other doctors to deal with such disorders and that the rôle of the psychiatrist is to explore the unknown.

Concrete results have been obtained in the treatment of the mentally ill. In Great Britain only 13.5% of admissions have been compulsory, the remainder being voluntary. A larger number of patients has left psychiatrist hospitals after improvement in condition, much earlier than was previously the case. The readaptation of the chronically mentally ill is being effected with success, and the number of beds occupied in hospitals is beginning to decrease.

The community and commercial undertakings are now more willing to accept the mentally ill whose condition has improved. Greater tolerance towards the permanently handicapped is also being shown.

The discovery of new techniques enable a better use of available resources to be made in accomplishing customary tasks. A shortage of personnel has obliged the organization of medical and social services to change its outlook by eliminating wastage through double employment and by encouraging co-operation. Definitely successful results in therapeutic treatment have led to an increased number of earlier cures. The attenuation of distress symptoms, made possible by chemico-therapy and progress in the treatment of ambulatory cases, give the mentally ill further reasons for hope.

The purpose of World Mental Health Year was to give fresh impetus to research in mental processes and in particular in the sphere of human relations.

56 countries drew up national programmes of action which resulted in conferences, the issue of publications and public gatherings. More than 400 researches of a technical or scientific character were made.

Under the auspices of the World Federation of Mental Health, research was made into six subjects: child-care, epidemiologic enquiries into the field of mental health, mental health and industry, psychological problems of migration, mental health and old age.

The VIth International Congress of mental health was particularly active during that year.<sup>1</sup>

During the course of the past few years the number of mentally ill seems to have increased considerably.

In France, for example, the proportion of psychiatric hospital cases has risen from 0.3% in 1835 to 2.9% on the eve of the Second World War. After a period of regression between 1939-1944, it has steadily risen and has now reached a figure of 3%.

This means that more than 110,000 people are at present enclosed. Nearly one third of hospital beds are occupied by the mentally ill. Neurotics, minor mental cases and psychosomatic cases are not included in these statistics.

Whilst this increase is related to the conditions of modern life, account should also be taken of a greater vigilance on the part of specialists and also that they are better informed about the subject.

It is urgently necessary to reply to an increasing number of requests and to put pressure on the public authorities to face this affliction. It is also equally important, however, to detect the multiple causes of mental disorder, to keep the public informed and to deflect the fight against mental illness in the direction of increased measures of prevention, by associating the greatest possible number of persons actively engaged in public life in this task.

What then is this new branch of medicine called "Mental Health" which was able to collect together in Paris on September 5, 1961, more than 1,500 specialists from 52 different countries?

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<sup>1</sup> The *Informations sociales*, Paris, December 1961, devoted a special number to this congress which took place in Paris from August 30 to September 5, 1961.



It in fact corresponds to all the processes, methods and techniques enabling the human personality to flourish in a world in rapid evolution, and giving man the chance of being harmoniously balanced in his own social surroundings.

This branch of medicine started fifty years ago, first of all because of a desire to humanize conditions of caring for the mentally ill. One of its first pioneers at the beginning of this century was Clifford Beers, himself a former mental patient.

Since then, progress in scientific matters has enlarged the ambitions of those who believe that it is time to buttress, and often to revise, the traditional precepts of human wisdom thanks to scientific facts in matters of psychology, sociology, biology and to other branches, such as education, social services, ethnology, etc.

At a time when the physical sciences enable men to perform spectacular feats, it would be inconceivable for the human sciences, in spite of their relative backwardness, not to be applied to guiding men in their mutual relationships and in adapting them to a world ever more complex, artificial and changing which they themselves have forged.

That is the reason that the International Congress of Mental Health in Paris collected together not only psychiatrists, but also representatives of the branches mentioned above. It has been a question of evaluating the work which was undertaken during World Mental Health Year, modest counterpart of the International Physical Year.

The subjects which have been studied are those which present themselves daily to all social workers in the form of problems which have to be resolved or of advice which has to be given.

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## **INTERNATIONAL REFRESHER COURSES FOR YOUNG MILITARY MEDICAL OFFICERS**

In 1959, the International Committee for Military Medicine and Pharmacy, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer of the Swiss Army, and with the assistance of the World Health Organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the World Medical Association, organized a first international refresher course for young military medical officers at Macolin-sur-Bienne.

In view of the great success achieved by this effort, it was decided to continue this activity. The Health Services of the Italian Armed Forces (land, sea and air) have recently published the programme of the second course, which will take place at Florence from May 24 to June 1, 1962.

This programme comprises fifteen conferences on war traumatology of medicine and hygiene in the armed forces to be given by professors of the Italian medical faculties and by medical officers of the Italian Armed Forces (land, sea and air), and ten conferences by leading personalities of the Health Services of the armed forces of the member countries of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy and by representatives of the large international organizations.

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# EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.<sup>1</sup>

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be " *Inter arma caritas* ".

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be :

- (a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely : impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies ;
- (b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;

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<sup>1</sup> The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term " National Red Cross Societies " includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

- (c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;
- (d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;
- (e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;
- (f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;
- (g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.



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- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, Victoria 2068 (R.72), *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, High Court Building, *Rangoon*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Phlaur Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Dharmapala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kaumien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovakian Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22 *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu 1 A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8<sup>e</sup>)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Greek Red Cross, rue Lycavitou 1, *Athens*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 4a Calle 11-42, Zona 1, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsensstraeti 6, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRISH REPUBLIC — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyeongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.



## ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG** — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4<sup>o</sup> piso, *Mexico* 7, D.F.
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, 26, Nairamdal Gudang, P.O. 20/26 *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C. 2*.
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua*, D.N.C.A.
- NIGERIA** — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi* 4.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 600 Isaac Peral Street, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, General-Secretaryship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon*.
- RUMANIA** — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucaresti*.
- SALVADOR** — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic)** — South African Red Cross, 304, Barclay's Bank Building, 14 Holland Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid*, 10.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm* 14.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés, P.O. Box 655, *Lome*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC** — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington* 6, D.C.
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kounznetzky Most 18/7, *Moscow*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic)** — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hông-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.